

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (New): An optical fiber structure, comprising:

a light emitting device; and

a plurality of optical fibers, each optical fiber having an input end, said optical fibers being bundled together at their respective input ends, with the respective input ends being positioned in a region of the light emitting device, each input end receiving light emitted from the light emitting device, and each optical fiber transmitting the received light through an interior thereof, each optical fiber further having a light emitting segment that has an outer surface that is roughened relative to an outer surface of a remainder of the optical fiber, each light emitting segment emitting the light, through its roughened outer surface, that is transmitted through the interior of the optical fiber.

Claim 3 (New): An optical fiber, comprising:

an input end that is adapted to receive light emitted from a light emitting device, and a light emitting segment that has a roughened outer surface relative to an outer surface of a remainder of the optical fiber, said optical fiber transmitting the received light through an interior thereof, and emitting the transmitted light through the roughened surface of the light emitting segment.

Claim 4 (New): The optical fiber recited in claim 3, wherein the light emitting segment is disposed in an intermediate position along a length of the optical fiber.